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FM USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5035

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 0025

C O N F I D E N T I A L UNVIE VIENNA 000466

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/01/2007

TAGS: ENRG IAEA PGOV PREL

SUBJECT: IAEA ELBARADEI ON U.S. STATEMENT ON IRAN

REF: STATE 87682

Classified By: AMBASSADOR GREGORY L. SCHULTE. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO IAEA DG ELBARADEI (CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN CALIFORNIA) AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT (1) WELCOMES THE U.S. ACTION; (2) ENCOURAGES IRAN TO SUSPEND FULLY AND VERIFIABLY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES; AND (3) REINFORCES IRAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THAT CHOICE, PLACING THE ONUS ON IRAN. ELBARADEI SAID THAT HE WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND WOULD SAY SO PUBLICLY SHORTLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD PUBLICLY ENCOURAGE IRAN TO MEET THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REQUEST FOR FULL SUSPENSION.

¶2. (C) ELBARADEI ALSO TOLD US THAT HE WAS TRYING TO PHONE IRANIAN SNSC CHIEF LARIJANI TO ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE IRANIAN RESPONSE, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT LARIJANI WAS IN A MEETING WITH THE SUPREME LEADER AND WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR THE MOMENT.

¶3. (U) IAEA SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE IAEA WEBSITE ON MAY 31:

BEGIN TEXT

STATEMENT BY IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL ON IRAN

31 MAY 2006 IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMED ELBARADEI WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, CONDOLEEZZA RICE, EXPRESSING THE READINESS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO JOIN THE EU-IRAN TALKS ONCE IRAN RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS' CALL FOR THE SUSPENSION OF ENRICHMENT-RELATED AND REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES AS A CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE.

DR. ELBARADEI STRONGLY ENCOURAGES IRAN TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THESE TALKS, WITH U.S. PARTICIPATION, WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND IRAN.

SCHULTE